

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 BERN 03834 240734Z

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 MCT-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-15 SY-05 /076 W

-----028982 240822Z /10

R 240700Z AUG 77

FM AMEMBASSY BERN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4818

UNCLAS BERN 3834

EO 11652: NA

TAGS: PORS SZ

SUBJ: SWISS GOVT PROPOSES FEDERAL POLICE FORCE

1. TO "COMBAT TERRORISM" AND PROVIDE PROTECTION FOR FOREIGN DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS (INCLUDING INTERANTIONAL CONFERENCES), FEDERAL BUILDINGS, COURTS AND PERFORM OTHER SECURITY FUNCTIONS NOW HANDLED BY CANTONAL AND LOCAL POLICE, THE FEDERAL COUNCIL HAS ASKED PARLIAMENT TO APPROVE CREATION OF A 1,200-MAN FEDERAL POLICE FORCE, TO BE UNDER THE DIRECT CONTROL OF THE FEDERAL DEPT OF JUSTICE AND POLICE. TOTAL COST IS ESTIMATED AT SF 3.5 MILLION (DOLS 1.4 MILLION) ANNUALLY, PLUS SF 7.5 MILLION IN EQUIPMENT.

2. AS IS CUSTOMARY NOWADAYS IN SWITZERLAND WHEN SIGNIFICANT CHANGES IN EXISTING INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORKS ARE CONTEMPLATED, THE RESPONSIBLE FEDERAL COUNCILOR (IN THIS CASE MINISTER OF JUSTICE, AND CURRENTLY PRESIDENT, FURGLER) CALLED A TELEVISED PRESS CONFERENCE ON AUG 22 TO EXPLAIN WHY THE NEW FORCE IS NEEDED AND TO ASSURE THE POPULACE THAT ITS FUNCTIONS WILL BE CAREFULLY CIRCUMSCRIBED. PARTICULAR REFERENCE WAS MADE TO PAST TERRORISTS ACTS AGAINST

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CIVIL AVIATION IN SWITZERLAND AS WELL AS RECENT INCIDENTS OF VIOLENCE INVOLVING THE JURA AUTONOMIST MOVEMENT AND DEMONSTRATORS OPPOSING NUCLEAR POWER REACTORS.

3. COMMENT: THE PROPOSAL FOR A NATIONAL POLICE FORCE, HOWEVER LIMITED, IS LIKELY TO AROUSE OPPOSITION AND

GENERATE DISCUSSION IN SWITZERLAND, WHERE BELIEF  
IN THE VIRTUE OF FEDERALISM AND STATES' RIGHTS HAS  
PERSISTED EVEN MORE STRONGLY THAN IN THE UNITED  
STATES. PRESS COMMENT HAS ALREADY REFERRED TO  
THIS LIKELY OPPOSITION, AS WELL AS OPPOSITION FROM  
SOME PEOPLE WHO WOULD SEE THIS AS A MOVE TOWARD  
A "POLICE STATE".

ODELL

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** POLICE FORCES  
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**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
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**Subject:** SWISS GOVT PROPOSES FEDERAL POLICE FORCE  
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**Review Markings:**  
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